

The Fire Within

by ChocolateSyrup

Category: Kung Fu Panda

Genre: Angst, Hurt-Comfort

Language: English

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2016-04-08 23:19:06

Updated: 2016-04-26 21:03:11

Packaged: 2016-04-27 21:37:35

Rating: T

Chapters: 9

Words: 11,681

Publisher: www.fanfiction.net

Summary: Sequel to Eternal Flame. Po is suddenly faced with a difficult decision - keep his title as the Dragon Warrior or give up that title - but he may not have a choice.

1. Chapter 1

_Hey again, everyone! So yes, I've decided to do a sequel to Eternal Flame! This idea just wouldn't leave me alone and I was like "why not?" So I went with it! I just can't put KFP down yet, lol. Also to let you know, I've come up with new dividers for scene changes. I realized that the site eats the normal ones sometimes. So to be safe, I made my own! Hope you enjoy! =D __I suggest reading Eternal Flame first as well if you are new so things make sense :)_

**~ox0o0xo~**

"We were trapped by Kai, but then this huge golden dragon came out of nowhere, like this! Grrr!" a little panda cub said in excitement as he held a brand new action figure in his paws, waving his arms. "But it was actually Po!"

The Dragon Warrior himself stood close by, unable to stop a smile from forming, as Bao told the story to a group of little, fluffy bunnies who turned their heads towards him with wide eyes. Some were fearful at the thought of a dragon, some were amazed. Others looked doubtful. It was show and tell at the school that Po had been assigned to teach at, and Bao was showing his action figure and sharing the story of how he had returned to the Mortal Realm as a dragon to defeat their enemy.

"That's impossible," one bunny piped up with an unbelieving gaze as she stared at Po. "He's still a panda."

Bao was about to come up with an explanation when he suddenly realized...he didn't have one. He looked from the bunny to Po, trying

to come up with at least something. But his mind drew a blank. How did Po go from being a panda to a dragon in the first place? He hadn't asked until now.

"Master Oogway sorta helped me out with that," Po explained as he moved to stand next to Bao in front of the class. It was a beautiful day outside with not a cloud in the skyâ€"perfect for storytelling!

"Oooh," the bunnies chorused at the familiar name.

"But isn't he...dead?" Another little bunny couldn't help but ask. It was all so confusing! How could a panda turn into a dragon...and then back into a panda?

"...Not exactly," Po decided to say, awkwardly rubbing the back of his neck. "I don't exactly know how that works."

Oogway did have the power to go from one realm to another, according to what Tigress had told him about the tortoise visiting. So didn't that mean Oogway was only half-dead? He didn't really want to think about that. The Spirit Realm was also bit of a touchy subject ever since Kai had first defeated him. "But anyway..." he laughed nervously, inching away and giving the spotlight back to Bao. He didn't want the kids to get too wrapped up in that subject. The bunny looked as if she wanted to say something more, but kept quiet.

"So then Po took Kai back to the Spirit Realm and turned back into a panda!" Bao finished excitedly. "And he's never coming back again." Thankfully the cub had left out the part where the dragon had gotten shot by an arrow, just barely managing to make it.

"Who was this Kai person, anyway?" A gray bunny questioned. "I've never heard of him."

"Me either, but he sounds scary," another bunny added, looking as though he were about to faint. "I'm probably gonna have nightmares now..."

"Well, you don't have to worry about him ever again," Po reassured. He was surprised that none of the kids had ever heard of Kai, especially after his recent visit. But that didn't really matter. A bell suddenly rang, signaling that it was time for the bunnies to go on lunch break. Po had only been scheduled to teach until noon, and with Bao's help, the time had gone by quick.

"Alright little dumpling kicker, time to go," Po said fondly, ruffling the fur on Bao's head.

"Aww. Bye!"

Bao waved to the bunnies as they went back inside of the school to get their lunches. He turned to follow Po back to the Jade Palaceâ€"his new home. The little panda cub couldn't believe that Master Shifu had actually allowed him and his family to stay!

**~ox0o0xo~**

Po took a deep breath, closing his eyes and appreciating that he was even able to do such a thing. It was a simple, every day act that most took for granted, but ever since he had lost his Chi to the evil spirit warrior, he cherished every moment that there was to cherish.

Epecially as he served dinnerâ€”a helping of his father's newly created secret ingredient soup. The Furious Five sat around the table, a few other pandas joining in. There was Bao and Lei Lei, as well as Li as the giant panda helped his son serve.

First it was lunch and now supper...the day had gone by so fast!

"I think I finally got the hang of it," Li told the group in excitement as he and Po began handing out the bowls. Mr. Ping had even taken the rest of the night off from the shop to attend the historic moment; he'd given Li his secret ingredient just before Po had taken off to fight Kai as a dragon.

"Uh huh, this is great!" Monkey said with a forced grin as he took a spoon in his hands and dipped it into his soup, soon afterwards taking a sip. Mantis nodded just as forcibly in 'agreement.' Crane was able to cover a grimace with one of his wings.

Tigress smirked. "You should make more," she told Li. Viper would have facepalmed along with the others if she had hands, but instead she just settled for shaking her head.

Li smiled widely at Tigress's compliment, completely unaware of the others' reactions.

"Too bad Shifu couldn't come. He had some serious meditating to do," Po said as he took the last two bowls for himself and Bao.

But just before he was able to sit down, Lei Lei had suddenly started waddling towards the counter where the plates and bowls were kept. Tigress was about to get up and grab her when she accidentally knocked herself against the counter.

Po's eyes widened, realizing what was about to happen. Before he was even able to think, he concentrated hard on the falling plate, catching it just in time before it was able to hit Lei Lei.

But he hadn't even reached his arms out to stop it from falling, keeping hold on his own bowl of soup.

The plate floated in midair, leaving the group to stare on in shock and amazement. Lei Lei looked above her head, giggling when she saw the odd spectacle before her. She reached her arms up and grabbed the plate, taking it back to the dinner table.

Po gaped. He'd just done the one thing that he promised himself he would never do, something that Kai had done to hurt others when the spirit warrior had possessed his powersâ€”it didn't matter if he'd used it on an inanimate object, something that couldn't get hurt.

He suddenly felt sick.

"Iâ€”I gotta go," he said quickly, putting his plate back on the counter as the Five watched his frantic expression.

Why was he so afraid?

But Tigress knew exactly what he was thinking and why he reacted the way he had, remembering their conversation at the noodle shop after he had woken up.

"You would never hurt me. You would never hurt anyone."

"Po, wait!" Tigress called, reaching a hand out. But he was too quick, and by the time she had started moving to follow him, he was already gone.

"What about dinner?" Mr. Ping asked in confusion.

2. Chapter 2

Thanks for the reviews, follows and faves the first chapter! Sorry this one's so short, but it was necessary to get things moving ;)

**~ox0o0xo~**

Po found that he just wasn't hungry anymore, even though he had skipped one of the most important meals of his life—"dinner."

But dinner didn't matter. Not after what he'd done before he had gotten a chance to eat. The image of the hovering plate just wouldn't leave his mind, and all the "what if" thoughts that came after. What if he had accidentally moved Lei Lei instead and _not_ the plate? Po was sure he would never forgive himself.

Sighing, he sat under the Peach Tree of Wisdom, trying to ignore his growling stomach and the peaches that could ease the pangs if he really wanted to have one or two; he knew that Master Oogway most likely wouldn't mind, but Shifu was an entirely different story altogether.

Besides his persistent hunger pangs, Po also noticed that the itching feeling was back—the feeling that something needed to be done, but he didn't know what that something was. Kai was defeated and trapped in his own prison that he'd created, and he had his Chi back. Was Master Oogway trying to tell him something, like he had tried to warn Shifu about Kai before he had arrived once again in the Mortal Realm?

"Is now a good time?" a voice asked, breaking the silence and pulling Po back to reality.

"Shifu! Aren't you supposed to be..."

"Meditating?" the red panda said with a slight, mischievous smirk as he held a glowing, orange lantern in one hand and his staff in the other.

"Aw come on, his soup's not _that_ bad," Po said in defense, realizing that Shifu had skipped dinner on purpose. He had _thought_ that his dad's soup was getting better, but apparently...

"Okay. Yeah. Maybe he does need some more work," the Dragon Warrior finally admitted. Shifu chuckled lightly as he joined Po underneath the tree, sitting next to the larger panda.

"They told you what happened, didn't they?" Po asked with a feeling that he already knew the answer to that question.

Shifu nodded and Po sighed once more, staring out at what seemed to be storm clouds gathering in the distance, which was strange. Hadn't it been nice and clear all day?

"What if I hurt someone? I don't think I could live with that," he said, knowing that he wouldn't be able to avoid talking about it any longer. "What if I end up hurting you right now?" Po knew that Kai had used his power on the old master. Shifu hadn't been able to resist the yak's control over his body, and he had been forced to kneel at Kai's feet. Po was horrified and angry at the thought that his powers had been used for such an evil deed.

"You are too concerned with what was and what will be," Shifu replied with a soft smile as he recited the wise words of Master Oogway.

Po couldn't help but smile in return, remembering how Oogway had told him those same words under the same tree...it seemed like ages ago now.

"I keep forgetting that you are not a student anymore, but a teacher," Shifu continued, the night wind ruffling his white fur. "And with great power, comes great responsibility. But I have trust in you as I did my master."

Po glanced down at his paws, remembering Tigress's words to him at the shop.

I trust you. We all trust you.

Shifu watched the panda's actions with a forlorn smile. "Oogway would not have chosen you as his successor if he as well did not have trust in the Dragon Warrior," he attempted to reassure Po.

That only made things worse. Everyone trusted him and counted on him, yet he barely trusted himself as he tried his best to come to terms with the new power he now possessed. One little thing could go wrong and he would lose everyone's trust in the blink of an eye.

"Anything is possible when you have inner peace," Shifu reminded Po calmly.

The Dragon Warrior looked from his paws to Shifu's lantern, gazing directly into the glowing light.

The lantern began to shake, and Po had a bad feeling that it wasn't because of the wind that had started to pick up.

"You shouldn't be here..." he said slowly, his eyes starting to water and hoping that Shifu wouldn't take it the wrong way. Maybe I shouldn't be here. At least until he got his powers under control.

Shifu's ears twitched in shock at Po's words, but he understood.

"Come back when you are ready...but I advise that it be soon. A storm appears to be brewing," he said, pointing his staff outwards at the billowing clouds that Po had seen earlier. They were moving in the direction of the peach tree.

When Po looked back, Shifu was already gone.

Thunder suddenly cracked and rumbled, and before Po knew what was happening, it had started to pour down rain, leaving his fur soaked.

Great.

3. Chapter 3

He still had so many questions that he hadn't had a chance to ponder up on the hill before the storm hit, or before Shifu came to check on him. He didn't want to go back to the palace yet. He didn't want to risk hurting anyone, but he knew that he had to go back or his master would probably give him extra training hours.

He was a Spirit Warrior like Kai now, right? So didn't that mean he was immortal, too? The arrow that Kai had shot into his chest hadn't killed him. He didn't know if that was because of his family's Chi as they desperately tried to save him, or if it had just hurt and he wouldn't have died at all, like he knew that Kai wouldn't die when he had thrown him down the Jade Palace steps. He had no idea how immortality worked! The thought of living past his friends and family didn't sit well with him—he wasn't keen on finding out, and he wasn't about to wish for Kai himself to come back and explain everything to him about what being a Spirit Warrior was like.

He was almost to the Jade Palace when a sharp pain suddenly caught him off guard, preventing him from asking any further questions. The pain had come from his side, exactly where Kai had slashed him with one of his swords.

But wait a minute...hadn't his wounds finally healed? It had only been a few weeks, but Po hadn't felt any pain in his chest or side for awhile now. He could be hugged and squeezed freely, unlike when he'd first woken up after his final fight with Kai. A second pain jabbed him in his chest where he had been shot with the arrow, and he found himself falling to the wet and muddy ground.

Everything went black and he knew no more.

**~ox0o0xo~**

Tigress would never admit it out loud, but she was worried.

She was worried about Po. He had just gotten his Chi back, but along with that Chi came a brand new power. She wondered, however, if it was actually a new power at all or if he had always had it and just never knew. She decided on the latter; Kai had simply revealed that power for him. The thing that unnerved her the most was the fact that Kai had gotten a handle on it so soon, and Po was just learning how

to use itâ€”and having a hard time going about that.

Thunder rumbled outside the Jade Palace, and Tigress was thankful for the warmth and comfort that their home provided, a home that she, the rest of the Five and Shifu now shared with numerous other pandas. They had all been so ecstatic when her master had given them an official yes that they could stay, and again, though Tigress would never admit it out loud, she was happy too that little Lei Lei was allowed to stay; she didn't know what she would have done if she'd had to say a heartbreaking goodbye.

"Have you seen Po?" Tigress asked Viper when the snake slithered by her room. She shook her head, eyes full of concern.

"I haven't seen him since dinner."

Tigress frowned. Dinner had been hours ago and like Viper, she hadn't seen the panda since. Master Shifu had told them that he went to go talk with him under the Peach Tree of Wisdom, but ever since then he hadn't been seen by anyone.

Where are you, Po? she thought, wracking her brain to try and come up with ideas as to where he might have gone. The kitchen was the most obvious, but then again...it seemed as if he didn't want to be found, and if he didn't want to be found, then he most likely wouldn't go to the one place where everyone would expect him to be. Li and Mr. Ping didn't even know that their son was missing yet, and she wasn't sure if she had a reason to be_ too_ concerned yet; Po had probably just lost track of time.

"Maybe he just needs some time alone," Viper suggested. "He looked pretty freaked out over what happened." The image of the floating plate crossed her mind. If she was being honest with herself, _she_ had been pretty freaked out, as well. But she wasn't afraid of Po! He was her friend and he would never hurt her! Why _would_ she be afraid? It was just his new power that needed some time getting used to. He could make things move with his mind...and apparently people, too. But she knew that he would never even _think_ of using it on his friends and family.

Tigress noticed something off, that Viper was suddenly lost in thought. "You're afraid, aren't you?" she couldn't help but ask. She had to know.

"I'm not afraid of Po. It's just..." Viper began, trailing off when she couldn't seem to finish her sentence. She really didn't have a clue why she was so afraid. It was Po's new power that left her a little nervous, of course, but...she just needed time to think, like Po probably needed time alone.

Tigress nodded in understanding. "I know...it is a little strange, but Po would never hurt us."

"I know," Viper confirmed. She was being silly. This was Po they were talking about! There was _nothing_ to be afraid of. Kai, on the other hand...he was an entirely different story. But Kai was gone and he was never coming back.

Po _wasn't_ Kai. Tigress told herself that she didn't need a reminder.

The two stood together in the dark hallway of the Jade Palace, glancing towards Po's room; he wasn't inside. He hadn't been there since dinner—he hadn't been _anywhere_ since dinner, and that only worried Tigress further.

Where _was_ he?

But Tigress told herself to stop worrying. Shifu had told him to come back when he was ready, and apparently he wasn't ready yet. Where he could be in this kind of weather, she had no idea. She told herself once more to stop worrying and let Po make his own decisions, just as she had when he was deciding if he wanted to stay in the Panda Village or go back to the Valley of Peace when Shifu had asked him to make that decision. She had told Po to do what he felt was right, and he had. Now their family was that much bigger and happier, but there was only one thing missing—he Po himself.

Still, she told herself to stop worrying. He would be back by morning.

Lightning flashed, illuminating the dark hallway.

**~ox0o0xo~**

"Hey, guys...you should come see this," Monkey said when he entered the palace halls the next morning. His eyes were wide and he looked shaken up as though he'd just seen a ghost.

"What is it?" Tigress questioned, an uneasy feeling sweeping through her as she followed Monkey outside the palace. Po still hadn't been seen anywhere, and she was beginning to think that it was a good time to start a search party. He hadn't told anyone anything, and had simply just disappeared like he had when he took Kai back to the Spirit Realm by using his staff. He would usually be awake by now and ready to start his training, despite having been taught by Li that pandas slept past noon.

The rain had stopped that morning, but it was still overcast. An earthly kind of smell reached the tiger's nose and she looked out over the fog that had formed above the Jade Palace steps, almost making it look like they were standing on the sky itself.

Monkey led them to the side of the palace where they found Crane and Mantis standing stock-still and looking up at the wall. Viper stood next to Tigress, her own eyes widening in shock when she saw what they had been staring at so intently.

She herself stared as the fog cleared to reveal something that she hadn't been expecting at all, and something that brought her back to the day when Kai had destroyed everything around her and had taken her friends' Chi while she could only watch helplessly from the sidelines.

And stared.

They all stared, unsure of what to make of the sight before them.

There were huge claw marks that scraped along the palace walls.

4. Chapter 4

"What do you think it was, Master?" Tigress asked as she walked with Shifu through the palace. He had a look on his face that clearly meant he was in deep thought, concentrating and trying to figure out what might have done such a thing to their home.

"I don't know," he answered Tigress honestly, stopping when they finally reached the claw marks again. Once his students had told him of the incident, he tried going back a few days in his mind to see if he'd had headaches—the dreaded headaches that Oogway had given him to warn them of Kai's second arrival with Po's Chi, and what he was sure would be another warning that someone (or some_thing_) was going to be a threat. But he came up with nothing; there were no warnings at all.

"Do you think we need to evacuate the palace?" Crane asked, continuing to stare at the marks that went all across the walls. He shivered, and it wasn't because of the cold. Wind had started to pick up again, ruffling his newly healed feathers.

He stood next to Bao, keeping the little cub close. Bao stared at the marks on the wall, not at all fazed by the sight. He wanted to try and touch it, but Crane held him back. Ever since he had been healed by Bao's Chi, the bird had wanted to make sure that no harm came to his new friend. The sight before them left him feeling very unsettled. What could have done such a thing?

"I don't think there's a reason to be worried yet," Shifu mused as he inspected the wall. The claw marks were big. Whatever it was that had caused such a thing had left the rest of the palace alone, leaving its inhabitants unharmed. It was most likely just a fluke, or something that the 'creature' hadn't been able to control. "But we should do a search of the area to make sure that whatever caused this is gone...and won't be back. If this happens again, then an evacuation is indeed a possibility."

Shifu pointed his staff outwards over the stairs. "Split up and see if you can find anything, but be alert. We don't know what we're up against."

"Master, what about Po?" Tigress asked. He hadn't been seen since last night, and that was during a bad storm. Who knew what could have happened to the panda overnight? Her heart thudded against her chest, worry beginning to pull her under again. Why was he doing this to them? To her? He should have been back by now!

"Your primary objective is to find whatever caused this," Shifu said, glancing at the claw marks. He inwardly shivered, images of Tai Lung flashing across his mind. The damage was very similar to what the leopard was capable of causing, only bigger. Maybe they did have a reason to be worried, but he didn't want to cause panic among the other pandas. "But you may also be on the lookout for the panda. I told him to come back to the palace when he was ready, but I haven't seen him since last night." He would do a bit of searching himself around the palace while the Five searched the rest of the Valley.

The Furious Five nodded, each going their separate ways to try and find whoever (or _what_ever) had caused the marks.

**~ox0o0xo~**

Crane soared through the air, making his way towards the forest. It was a nice day out again, and he intended to make the most of it after being inside the palace for so long. First it was Kai that had trapped him inside, and then it was a bad storm. Weather had been really weird the past few days as well. First it had been bright and sunny when Bao and Po were teaching the bunny class, and then storming rain that same night. What was going on?

But he pushed weather to the back of his mind, keeping on the lookout for anything peculiar in the Valley of Peace. So far he hadn't seen anything unusual, or something that might have caused the marks on the wall, but he was doing his best to find _some_ kind of clue—he didn't want to go back empty-handed.

He wasn't far from the palace when he suddenly spotted a shape down below. A _big_ shape. Trees surrounding it were crushed and broken, and a damaged trail that led to the shape itself. He couldn't exactly make out what such a shape could be from this high up, so he made a gentle landing on the ground.

Heavy breathing could be heard from behind a group of trees. Crane gulped, suddenly wishing that Mantis or one of the other Five had come along with him. He inched slowly in the direction of the sound, air ruffling his feathers once again as the larger creature breathed in and out.

Crane's beak dropped in shock and he instantly rushed back towards the palace.

**~ox0o0xo~**

"I found Po!" Crane exclaimed as he reached the Jade Palace, landing at the entrance next to the steps. The Furious Five had all returned with nothing, and Shifu as well. There was nothing that could be found that had been related to the wall. Po hadn't been found by anyone except Crane.

Tigress's eyes lit up at his exclamation, but she frowned when she noticed his frantic expression. "Where?"

"He's not exactly himself..." Crane trailed off, watching as the others made their way towards him.

"What do you mean?" Tigress asked, her heart beginning to pick up once again.

Something was wrong.

"Just follow me!"

**~ox0o0xo~**

A huge creature met her gaze and her eyes widened at the sight.

It was a golden creature with green eyes, and it was lying on top of a broken, fallen tree. Mud was splattered over its shiny scales and it looked like it was absolutely exhausted, breathing heavily.

It didn't seem hurt, just tired...like it had been struggling.

Tigress continued to stare at its eyes, those bright green eyes that didn't seem to take notice of her yet, eyes that were just slits and barely open.

She knew those eyes anywhere.

He had been missing since the night before, and when he'd first disappeared, that was when they had first seen the claw marks.

Everything was instantly piecing together in her mind.

It was Po.

The panda had somehow turned back into a dragon.

5. Chapter 5

"Po?" Tigress asked carefully as she continued to stand in front of the gigantic dragon. He still hadn't woken, but his breathing had begun to slow down and go back to its normal pace. Whatever was normal for a dragon, at least.

Po didn't respond, his eyes still half shut. Tigress reached a hand out to rest on his nose. Before it could be firmly placed, the dragon let out a snort and suddenly made a move to get up without warning. Tigress hardly flinched, but she took a few steps back along with the others to avoid being crushed by accident.

Blinking wearily, Po tried his best to sit up. He was still sore from whatever had happened to him the night before, which was most likely a painful and unexpected transformation. His legs shook, but he was able to bring himself up off of the fallen tree beneath him, the leaves shaking as they were freed from his tremendous weight.

He let out what sounded like something between a whine and a growl as he looked back at Shifu and the Furious Five and attempted to speak. It took them a minute to remember that during the time Po had been a dragon his first time, he hadn't been able to talk. Apparently that was the case now, as well.

"...Po?" Tigress asked again. The dragon glanced at her in response to his name.

Why am I a dragon again? he thought frantically, his heart pounding as he looked about at the damaged forest and crushed, split trees.

Did I do that?

"Are you hurt?" Tigress asked, just to be sure.

Po shook his head. _Are you?_ he mentally asked, head tilting to the

side. He could have done anything to them! But Tigress didn't seem harmed at all in any way. She wasn't even scared of him, just appearing as worried as he that he had somehow changed into a dragon once again.

He glanced down at his body with a frown and couldn't help but ask one question: why?

"Can you remember what happened?" Shifu tried from his position next to the tiger.

Another head shake. Tigress sighed with relief in the back of her mind—so he had no idea what happened to the Jade Palace...that meant he hadn't done damage to the wall on purpose. She couldn't believe that she ever thought he would whether it was on purpose or not. He wouldn't do that of his own free will. There was something wrong, something just as big as the dragon itself that was going on.

She took a step forward.

Po suddenly growled, warning her not to come any closer. Tigress instantly stopped, shocked. The others stood in place, just as shocked as Tigress at the sudden change in his behavior.

"Po...I just want to help," she said in an attempt to calm her friend down.

He was tired. He was frustrated. She could see it in his expression that he was scared, confused as to why he had once again been turned into a dragon.

She took another step forward.

Po backed away, letting out another warning growl.

"Tigress," Shifu said slowly and calmly so as not to further spook the dragon.

The others remained in place, eyes wide as they looked on. Viper glanced about at the damage that had been done to the trees around them.

I don't want to hurt you, Po thought mournfully as he watched Viper's reaction, his heart racing even quicker. He could easily crush them like he had crushed the trees. He had to get himself to calm down, but his pounding heart just wouldn't slow down.

Inner peace...inner peace... Po told himself. Maybe if he could get himself to calm down, he would change back. But even inner peace wasn't working. It was like it had just been stripped away from him and he had never gained inner peace at all.

The question why came rushing back. Why was he a dragon again? How had he changed back in the first place? Was there something going on? Po recalled the itchy feeling that had gone over him at the peach tree, the feeling that something had to be done. But what? Or had it just been the start of his transformation? ...Was it Master Oogway's doing? Po doubted that the tortoise would change him back into a dragon just for the heck of it. There had to be a reason!

...But _what?_ All of these questions were driving him insane and he couldn't take it, letting out an irritated rumble. He couldn't risk hurting any of them. He had to get out of the Valley of Peace and go somewhere far, a place where there wasn't anyone he could hurt by accident.

Tigress attempted to inch closer to him once more. She started to speak, but anger flashed across Po's face. _Stay away,_ he thought desperately, his eyes flashing as he quickly took hold of her outstretched paw with a simple thought and wrenched it backwards so that it couldn't touch him.

Everyone stood in place. The silence was near deafening and if a pin had been dropped, it most likely would have shattered their ears. The Furious Five gawked at what had just occurred, and Po could see them stepping back as if they were afraid of him. They _were_ afraid of him, nearly as much as he was afraid of himself.

Tigress held her paw. It hadn't hurtâ€"it was incapable of feeling. The only time she had ever had feeling in her paw since punching the iron wood trees was when Po had squeezed it after waking up in his room, and that had to have simply been her imagination. She'd been so _happy_ that Po was back, that he wasn't dead. In the back of her mind, she was aware that storm clouds were beginning to gather again from above, and a light sprinkle of rain had started.

But she was just as shocked as everyone else, if not more so. She looked back up at Po, but he wouldn't meet her gaze. He couldn't. A flicker of an idea crossed his mind. He glanced up at the sky instead, and Tigress's eyes widened as she realized what he was going to do.

I can't stay here, Po thought as he continued staring, his idea forming more solidly. He had to get away.

"Wait!" Tigress shouted as Po hurriedly took to the sky without so much as looking back, her mind swirling in confusion at the fact that Po had just taken off into the sky and was _flying._ As a panda, he couldn't fly. But as a dragon, he had the power to soar through the clouds to his heart's content.

The storm clouds cleared and the rain stopped, but there were still dark clouds moving in the direction that Po had taken off.

Tigress turned back to Shifu and the Five. "I'm going after him," she told them firmly.

"But Tigress, he just used his powers on you!" Viper objected. This had been _exactly_ what she'd been afraid of, and what they had talked about in the hallway before going to bed the night before.

"That wasn't him," Tigress countered. "He wasn't himself..." she wasn't sure whether she was trying to convince the Five more, or her own doubts that were starting to circle in her head. "He didn't even remember scratching the palace. Something is going on and I'm not going to let anything happen to him."

"You don't even know where he went!" Crane pointed out.

But Tigress had a faint idea of where he might have gone. He was going to a place where there wasn't anyone he could harm, a place that had been empty for the last few weeks since Shifu had allowed the pandas to stay.

"I have an idea where he might have gone," she finally said aloud.

"I'll stay and look after the pandas," Shifu said after a few heartbeats of silence. "Anyone who wishes to join Tigress may do so. But I must remind you all to stay alert, and this time...stay together."

The Furious Five nodded. They looked from Shifu to Tigress. She stood in place, waiting for them to give their answer.

It was one she hadn't been expecting, but a small smile spread when they answered at last.

"Po is our friend and we won't let anything happen to him, either. We're coming, too."

6. Chapter 6

Po breathed a sigh of relief once he had finally reached his destination. A completely empty destination where there was no one he could hurt.

He couldn't believe it. He'd just used his powers on someone, just like he was afraid of—and Tigress _of all people! Why?

The secret Panda Village was the one place he could think of that was totally empty ever since Shifu had allowed his family to stay at the Jade Palace. He felt really bad for just taking off without telling the others where he was going, _especially _his dads; they didn't even have a clue that he'd been turned into a dragon again! But Po figured that it was for the best...they would probably freak out, anyway.

But he _had _to leave. He had to get his powers under control and until then, he was going to stay in the deserted village.

Now that he was away from everyone else and had time to think, Po finally noticed a growl that was emitting from his stomach. Now that he thought about it, he _was _feeling a little hungry. What did dragons eat, anyway? Most likely not dumplings and noodles. He shuddered, pushing the need for food to the back of his mind. He would figure that out later if he wasn't back to normal yet, which he hoped he was. This whole situation had him entirely confused.

Sighing again as he made his way to the village entrance, Po glanced up towards the sky that had darkened once more with storm clouds. Weird...it was like bad weather, or just plain bad _luck _was following him wherever he went. But like food, he pushed that thought to the back of his mind; he had more important things to worry about than bad weather.

A chilly breeze blew past and soothed his aching body as he finally

entered the village. As a panda, he would have had to use the non-stair route like his dad had shown him upon his first arrival, being lifted up to the mountain. Now that he was a dragon again with the exhilarating ability to fly, he could skip that entrance altogether and take himself up the mountain, no stairs or lift required. Which was really awesome, he had to admit, and one of the things he loved most about being a dragon. He figured he should take advantage of that while he had the chance.

But before he even had a chance to clear his head, Po could hear voices from down below the mountain. Not long after, the Five themselves were spotted.

_No, no, no! What are they doing here?! Did they follow me? _Even amidst his panicking thoughts, Po knew that he had to find somewhere to hide. But how could you hide a massive dragon in a village where there weren't that many places to hide, unless you were a panda? He couldn't camouflage like he had in the Spirit Realm. There wasn't anything gold! Thinking fast, he found a tall group of trees. It was a long shot in terms of concealment, but there wasn't much of a choice.

"I can still see you, Po," Tigress deadpanned as she led the others into the village. "We're going to help whether you want us to or not. So just come out."

"Yeah, you can't get rid of us that easy!" Monkey said in agreement.

Po huffed, emerging at last from the trees. So much for a good hiding spot. _What are you guys doing here? _he wanted to ask, but only managing to blink at the group. He plopped himself onto the grass in a sitting position.

"What Tigress said," Mantis explained, "we're helping whether you want us to or not."

"We're going to get you back to normal," Viper chimed in as she slithered next to Crane. Tigress was by his side, carrying a pack full of food that Po couldn't help but stare at. The more he thought about food, the more hungry he became. But he had to remind himself that he was currently a dragon, and he had no idea what dragons ate. He didn't want to find out. Shaking his head, he turned his attention back to Tigress. She had a determined look on her face, like they were going to accomplish their goal overnight. As much as he wanted to go back to being a panda, Po doubted that such a thing would happen.

"I think we should try and talk to Master Oogway," she said immediately once she had Po's attention. She'd had the chance to mull over their odd predicament, and the only possible solution that she had come up with was to contact Master Oogway.

_How? I left my staff..._Po thought, suddenly realizing that he hadn't really packed _any _of his things before going on his unexpected journey. He'd just _had_ to get away from everyone, and fast before he hurt them...

His thought trailed off when Tigress pulled out said staff as if she'd read his mind. Luckily, she had thought things through. Maybe

Master Oogway really _could_ help...

Po expected her to hand it over to him so that he could use it to get to the Spirit Realm, but she kept a firm grip.

"I'm going with you," she said, like it was already decided.

Po shook his head rapidly in disagreement. _Are you crazy? _he thought, shocked that she would even think of doing such a thing. For one, he was still recovering from the fact that he'd used his powers on her, something that he promised himself he would never do.

"You didn't hurt me, Po," she said soothingly, holding out her paw so that he could see there were no marks or bruises of any kind. He bent his head down cautiously, gently sniffing the center of her hand. Sure enough, it was exactly like she said. "I know you were just trying to protect me...so hardcore I can't feel anything, remember?"

He blinked once, then nodded slowly as he remembered their conversation on the way to Gongmen City. Truth be told, he actually couldn't remember much of when he had lashed out at her, it had all happened so fast. The only thing he knew was that he had been trying to protect everyone, especially Tigress.

But besides his constant worry of hurting her, she knew that if she went with him to see Master Oogway, she'd have to...

"Uh, Tigress, you know you'd sorta have to..._fly, _right?" Crane said uncertainly.

"So?" she shot back.

"A flying tiger...now I've seen everything," Mantis snickered from atop Crane's hat, highly amused by just the thought alone. It was weird enough that a panda had turned into a dragon and could fly...but now a tiger was going to _ride _said dragon?

"Yeah," Monkey chuckled. "Maybe you guys can race each other!"

Po frowned. The last thing he wanted to do was hurt people, especially his friends. But this time was an exception, lightly flicking him with his tail. Monkey fell backwards, knocking into Crane. The two fell to the ground in a heap, Mantis shooting Po a glare as he was tipped over.

"Thank you for nothing, you useless reptile," the smaller warrior quipped in return. Monkey only glared, but then laughed and shrugged it off. This was going to be interesting...

Po rolled his eyes but bent down anyway so that Tigress could climb aboard. He knew that there was no arguing with her. Once her mind was set on something, that was that and there were no questions asked. He looked back up to the stormy sky, realizing that it would be her first time to the Spirit Realm. Who knew what she would think or what would happen?

You sure you want to do this? he tried asking by turning his head towards Tigress as he prepared himself to launch himself off the ground. The only thing she could hang onto was his neck, and he

doubted that it was very comfortable. She nodded in response to his supposed question.

"I'm ready."

"Looks pretty bad up there," Viper commented as she looked up at the sky herself. "Be careful..."

"We'll be back as soon as we can," Tigress assured the group as they started to back up so that Po had enough room. She continued to hold his staff firmly in her hand so as not to drop it once he took off. "Stay safe and find shelter in the village if the storm gets worse."

The Furious Five nodded, gathering up their belongings and getting ready to follow their instructions.

Po glanced back up at the stormy sky one last time before bending down to rocket himself off the ground.

His staff in Tigress's hand glowed brighter and brighter in the darkness until finallyâ€"just like the time when he'd taken Kai back to the Spirit Realmâ€"both the tiger and dragon disappeared into thin air.

7. Chapter 7

Po hadn't been sure what to expect when he and Tigress crossed the threshold between realms. He'd never brought anyone with him before from the mortal world, and he was a little nervous about what the outcome would be. What if something happened or it didn't work? Was he supposed to be holding his staff, or was the universe okay with someone other than the Dragon Warrior hanging onto it for the time being?

He could have held it in between his teeth, but he didn't want to risk snapping it in half again. Sure, he had held it in his mouth when he took Kai back to the Spirit Realm, but he was much more comfortable with someone else that he trusted holding onto it for him.

Po couldn't help but close his eyes with little more to do than hope for the best. He was (literally) the Dragon Warrior, and he should be able to bring anyone he wanted back and forth as he pleased.

When his eyes finally opened, there was gold swirling all around and different islands that dotted the ever-changing landscape.

Yes, it worked! But what about Tigress?

You okay up there? he tried asking with a rumble as he hovered through the realm with his tail swishing gently back and forth in the air.

"I'm fine," she answered as though she had heard his thoughts.

Wait. Had she just heard the dragon's voice...in her head? It sounded like Po's normal voice when he had been a panda.

"Say something else," she urged just to be sure.

Uhh...pandas rule and tigers drool, Po responded.

"...Really?"

This is so cool! Po exclaimed in his mind.

"A little strange...but definitely cool," Tigress finally admitted.

Maybe this only works in the Spirit Realm, Po mused as he continued flying forward.

"I think so," Tigress replied as if they were simply having a normal conversation.

Can you like...read my mind? Po had to ask, curiosity getting the better of him. _What am I thinking about right now?_

"...Noodles," Tigress guessed without even thinking. Truth be told, she couldn't _really_ read his mind; she'd just decided to humor the panda-turned-dragon.

Woah! This is seriously too awesome for words. But it ****is**** kinda freaky.

"I can't read your mind, Po," Tigress said plainly, deciding to be truthful. It was fun while it lasted, she had to admit. "I can only hear what you say in my head."

...Oh. She knew him too well.

The two floated through the Spirit Realm quietly, Tigress keeping a firm hold on Po's staff. She had begun to float off of his back, and had to settle with flying next to the dragon as though she were running in midair on all fours, but at a slower pace. She could see his golden face and he glanced back at her, green eyes blinking with a bright smile.

This place is pretty neat, right?

"Yes," Tigress agreed as she looked on at her surroundings. It was a mix of green and gold, but mostly gold. Not so much that she couldn't see Po, which was a relief. "Do you know where Master Oogway is?"

He usually finds me first, Po said in response. _But it looks like he's not really expecting us._

"What do you mean?" Tigress asked.

I think he would've found us by now, but...

His thought trailed off in the tiger's mind, which was odd. It was like he had wanted to say something more, but decided against it.

"...Po?"

His eyes suddenly flashed from green to black, and it was then that Tigress knew for sure something was wrong.

She had to leap out of the way when he snapped at her without warning.

"Po!" she cried in shock, landing atop a floating rock. He snarled and charged at her. It was happening too fast and she barely had time to react to his oncoming attack. But before she could even close her eyes, a figure suddenly dropped in front of the dragon, landing between him and Tigress on the rock. It lifted an arm, holding another staff. A staff that appeared to be bigger than the Dragon Warrior's. A golden light appeared from the staff's tip and flew forward, directly hitting its desired target.

The dragon screeched in surprise, tumbling backwards and struggling to break free from his attacker's bind.

"Master, what's happening?" Tigress asked Oogway desperately when he came into her view, hoping that she would get an answer before Po managed to break free from his nerve attack.

The tortoise looked absolutely panicked, a look which rarely made itself known on Oogway's features. Tigress's heart pounded roughly against her chest and she gripped Po's staff even tighter.

"If he does not change back within three daysâ€" "

Too late. Po was far too strong, pulling himself out of it before Oogway could finish his sentence.

The Dragon Warrior slammed directly into him and the older master reeled backwards, Tigress just barely managing to catch him in her arms before he could go soaring through the realm. Oogway panted sharply, the wind knocked out of him from the sheer force of Po's strength. The staff in Tigress's hand dropped to the rock but before she could retrieve it, Po had other ideas.

Alarm swept through her and she feared that he would go for his own staff. But he went for Oogway's instead. Tigress attempted to perform a Chi attack with one hand, but Po was too fast. He grabbed the staff from Oogway's hold while the tortoise was still stunned from the blow, snapping it in half with his teeth.

The broken pieces fell to the ground and Tigress blanched in utter shock and horror, her grip on Oogway tightening protectively. But the tortoise, with one last pant as his breath finally returned, reached out an arm, concentrating on Po's staff. It began to shake and tremble, flying forward into his hand. He released himself from Tigress's hold and she reluctantly obliged, letting the tortoise go.

Her eyes widened as he placed the staff into her own hands.

It began to glow as Po went for another charge.

"He must learn to control it..." Oogway said weakly as she felt herself fading away, the Spirit Realm dissolving all around her.

Oogway jumped out of the way as a bright, white light suddenly surrounded her and the dragon that was getting closer and closer each second.

She was instantly blinded and knew no more.

8. Chapter 8

That wasn't Po.

That couldn't have been Po.

He had outright _attacked_ her _and_ Master Oogway!

Po would never do that.

It wasn't him, Tigress told herself over and over as she lay on the wet and soggy grass of the Panda Village, violent rain pouring down onto her fur. _It wasn't him._

The dragon lay beside her, its chest rising up and down in a heavy motion as rain slid down its scales. Its eyes were closed, so she couldn't tell if they had switched back to their normal emerald color.

Why had they turned black? It didn't make any sense. Po was normal one minute and then crazy the next! What was going on? Oogway had told her that he had three days to 'change back.' She assumed that he meant three days to change back into a panda. What would happen after three days?

None of it made any sense.

Was Oogway even okay, especially after he'd been slammed with such force like he had? He couldn't die _again,_ could he? Po was going to be devastated to find that he'd hurt their master in such a wayâ€”if she _ever_ told him, that was.

But Tigress knew that he hadn't meant it. His dragon half must have taken over, and he couldn't control it.

He must learn to control it, Oogway had said to her before sending the two of them back to the Mortal Realm.

Realization suddenly hit her.

He had to learn to control the dragon side of him, or else...

"Tigress! Guys, they're back!" the voice of Viper reached her ears and she was soon aware of the Furious Five surrounding her and the dragon, bringing her back to reality.

They rushed out into the rain to their comrade, surprised when the weather suddenly began to clear up. The heavy rain stopped and the sun was able to peek out from behind a pile of white clouds that were slowly separating. The Five were instantly aware of the sudden weather change. Surprised, but aware. They quickly took a mental note

of exactly when it had taken place"when Po had returned from the Spirit Realm.

"Stay back," she said sternly.

"Tigress, what's" "

She shot Crane a glare that clearly told him to just stop and listen. The group obliged, staying back from the large beast before them. Their hearts beat wildly for seemingly no reason. Why was Tigress telling them to stay away from Po?

Po himself groaned, his eyes finally opening. Tigress allowed herself to breathe a sigh of relief; so his eyes were back to normal...she could tell by their normal green color. It wasn't the normal that they wanted, but normal nonetheless while he was stuck as a dragon. He blinked in confusion when he found that they were back in the Mortal Realm. Glancing down at his body, he found that he was still a dragon, as well.

What happened? he asked in the form of a small, confused growl. He had, unfortunately, lost his ability to communicate with Tigress telepathically in her head. If only they were able to talk regularly in the Mortal Realm...it would make things so much easier.

"Master Oogway found us," Tigress began to explain, knowing that he would want an explanation as to why they had returned so soon.

What did he say? Po inwardly questioned, tilting his head to the side and blinking.

"He said you have to find inner peace as a dragon..." Tigress couldn't believe that she was actually lying. She was _lying_ to Po and putting words in Master Oogway's mouth. But it wasn't too far from the truth, right? Maybe if he just managed to calm himself down enough, he would change back; he'd been too riled up ever since they had first discovered that he'd been changed back into a dragon.

So all I have to do is calm down and find peace? he wondered. Easier said than done. He had been anything _but_ calm ever since he'd turned back into a dragon. But why had they been sent back to the mortal world so soon? Did something happen to Master Oogway? It was like there was a blank spot in his mind, a piece of a memory that was missing. Po made a quick glance up towards the blue sky, then back down to the Five, who were watching quietly. Something seemed different about their expressions...it was like they knew something that he didn't, especially Tigress. But he shook the thought away. She wouldn't lie to him.

"He had to send us back here," Tigress continued without fail. She was hurting herself with every lie she spewed out, but she had no choice. If Po found out what had occurred in the Spirit Realm, there was no telling what he would do or where he would go if he ran off. They couldn't chase after him again! "He wants you to concentrate...concentrate on turning back into a panda."

The Five watched the two of them closely. They didn't have a clue what happened or why Tigress was supposedly lying to Po, but they knew that she would tell them soon, even if it would hurt to keep the truth from the panda-turned-dragon. There was an invisible tension

that they just couldn't see yet.

Po couldn't help but let out a little grumble. He had to concentrate on getting back to normal? Why couldn't Oogway just use his staff to change him back? Meditating wasn't one of his strong points; he couldn't sit still for more than five minutes. Well...if that was what it took, if all he truly had to do was get himself to calm down and concentrate on getting back to normal, then that was what he was going to do...it wasn't like he had any other choice.

"Tigress...there's something we have to tell you," Viper told her friend quietly. She glanced about strangely at the clear sky, at the pouring rain that was now no more except for the wet grass beneath their feet that was the only proof a storm had ever occurred. Crane nodded and Monkey gestured to one of the village houses that they had been taking shelter in from the storm. They started to make their way inside.

The dragon perked curiously, starting to follow them to the house. But he soon realized somethingâ€”he couldn't fit inside even if he tried. Tigress turned back around to face Po, giving him a gentle but ever so slightly strained smile that he did not notice.

"We'll come back out soon," she reassured. If he couldn't fit inside, she wondered where he was going to sleep for the night...they would figure that out later.

Po nodded reluctantly.

"There's something I have to tell you, too," she said as they closed the door behind them.

"You go first," Mantis said, ready to hear what had gone on in the Spirit Realm.

**~ox0o0xo~**

Po didn't mean to eavesdrop. He couldn't help it even if he tried, especially with his ears as sensitive as they were while he was a dragon. He sat outside the hut without even trying to peek inside, without even trying to look in through the window. Tigress would probably kick him if he tried, anyway.

They were whispering about something, and he knew that it was about him.

They were talking about him, and something about three days.

What would happen in three days?

He sighed, light gray smoke emerging from his nostrils as he breathed out. He had forgotten that he could breathe fire if he wanted. He frowned, a slow realization suddenly dawning on him.

The rest of their words were drowned out by his horrible realization. It didn't sound important, anywayâ€”something about the weather.

Three days was all he heard.

They had three days to find a way for him to get back to normal...or he would be stuck as a dragon forever.

9. Chapter 9

Li was worried. He hadn't seen Po since he ran off at dinner yesterday, and the fact that no one else had seen him didn't help to ease his mind, either.

There were also the big claw marks that were raked along the side of the palace, which hadn't gone unnoticed by the other pandas. They were afraid at first that something might be a threat to themselves and the Valley of Peace, but Shifu had told them otherwise and that the Five had gone to 'take care of it.'

Whatever that meant, Li didn't know. All he knew was that his son was missing, and that Mr. Ping was just beginning to notice, as well; he'd been too busy in the noodle shop to notice any earlier.

"Shifu probably sent him on another mission," Mr. Ping tried to reason with Li while attempting to calm his own nerves. The two stood together in the shop, Li helping to serve customers.

"But he didn't even say goodbye," Li said in response.

"Oh, he runs off without saying anything sometimes. I had to stop him myself before he went off to fight that crazy peacock."

Li stiffened slightly at the mention of the 'crazy peacock,' but his reaction went unnoticed by Mr. Ping. He shook the thought of the one responsible for his previous village and wife away, far too worried for his son now to delve deeper into the past.

But he eventually just told himself to calm down. His son was probably out just doing his job, like Po had reminded him many times before. He had a duty as the Dragon Warrior, and Li trusted that he would be back soon after he finished whatever task was asked of him.

Li sighed, staring out at the shop's customers from behind the counter.

"You're right...he's probably with the Furious Five right now. Maybe it has something to do with the drought."

"I hope they have enough water wherever they are. It came on so suddenly!" Mr. Ping commented worriedly. "So strange...I've been having to ration by letting the customers ask if they need it."

Li nodded in agreement.

The weather had been acting really weird lately. He was still worried, but he felt a little comforted. Po had faced worse than weather before. He was fine...right?

**~ox0o0xo~**

Inner peace...inner peace...inner peace...

The Dragon Warrior repeated the mantra quietly to himself over and over, trying to calm his nerves that just didn't seem to want to quit.

Tigress and the rest of the Five stood by, watching from a distance and trying not to interrupt Po's meditative state. His eyes were closed and he was lying down on the grass of the village, trying to tune out any sounds around him and focusing on only one thing: inner peace.

"That's it, Po," Tigress praised her friend gently.

Of course, it was hard for Po to concentrate on inner peace when he knew something that the Five apparently hadn't wanted him to know—the three day time limit. But he did his best to concentrate the best he could. Just when he was about to repeat the two words once again, a great rumbling was heard and the dragon's concentration was instantly broken, his eyes flickering open.

Tigress made a mental note that they were still, thankfully, their normal green color and hadn't been turned to black. She wondered if it was only when Po was anxious or upset that he would go from being the 'panda dragon' that they knew to something completely unrecognizable. But the last time his eyes had changed, he had been relaxed as he possibly could in the Spirit Realm. She guessed that it was a completely random occurrence, and was only going to get worse the closer they came to their three-day deadline. Still, she didn't want to take any chances. Po had to find peace with the dragon whether it was going to work or not.

There was an awkward silence as the Five sat with Po outside the Panda Village, the bright sun beginning to set. It left a beautiful pink sunset in its wake that almost made Po want to get up and fly right towards it—the only thing that prevented him from doing so was the fact that his stomach was continuing to let out growls that were nearly ten times as loud as when he had been a panda.

"You need something to eat, don't you," Tigress said in more of a statement than a question to finally break the silence. They had been sitting for the past hour just loitering outside the house and trying to come up with more solutions on how to get Po back to normal, besides concentrating on his inner peace. If Master Oogway couldn't help, or didn't want to help—which Tigress doubted—then it was going to be a lot harder than they thought. The rest of the Furious Five knew now that Tigress's whole speech about inner peace had been a lie, everyone except Po.

If inner peace wasn't going to work, then what would? But they had to try something.

Po's stomach growled again as if in response. I haven't eaten since yesterday afternoon, he suddenly realized. It was amazing that he'd lasted so long without anything to eat! He'd been so distracted ever since he had turned into a dragon that food had completely slipped his mind. Maybe it was better that he'd forgotten, because his inner peace was now dashed once again.

"You must not have eaten since you ran off at dinner yesterday..." Tigress mused, glancing back up at Po as the Five decided to make

themselves comfortable on his nose and feet. She debated telling them to leave him alone, but he didn't seem to mind. His inner peace had been ruined, anyway.

This was going to be a little difficult...what did dragons eat? Well, if inner peace wasn't the answer...then maybe some food was a good place to start. It was one of Po's favorite things, after all.

Po bent his head down slowly to sniff gently at the packs of food that Tigress and the Five had brought with them. Sure, she had thought to be prepared and also bring his staff along on their journey, but she hadn't exactly thought through what a dragon might want to snack on; this was all new to them.

"I guess you can't eat noodles," Monkey said, trying to come up with ideas. He had found a place for himself atop one of Po's front feet as the dragon lay as calm as he could on the grass that had finally dried from the storm.

"Or dumplings," Mantis added in as he watched Po scrounge through the bags, nearly falling off of his nose where he had been perched in the process.

"Or soup," Crane couldn't help but add in.

Po let out a small whine, his stomach grumbling even louder. _Or radishes._ Naming his favorite foods that he could no longer snack on wasn't helping. He lifted his head out of the bags, a frustrated and tired expression on his face.

Tigress shot the other three a glare. If what they had told her was true, what they had said about the weather...then the Dragon Warrior didn't need any more stress than he already had. He had to remain calm and collected, especially so they didn't run the risk of his dragon half taking over.

Tigress thought, trying to think of something, _anything_ that a big dragon could eat in the panda village. The sound of water reached her ears that she had previously tuned out, a sound that had simply blended in with the rest of the mountain's naturally-made music.

If there was a river nearby, that meant there had to be...

"I have an idea," she told Po and the Five, glancing upward towards the hungry dragon.

End
file.